

his long and fruitful career, and I wish him the best of luck on the next stage of his life as educator.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PARENTAL LEAVE EQUITY ACT OF 1996

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Parental Family Leave Act of 1996, a bill which will ensure that employees who choose to care for a foster child or adopt a child will benefit from the same leave policy as their coworkers who are birth parents. This bill does not mandate that employers provide leave benefits beyond existing law, but rather that if they choose to provide such benefits, they do so for all parents equitably. Because the employers involved are generally larger businesses and the number of children is small, the bill will not burden employers.

The Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 [FMLA] provides that employers must grant up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave for adoptive, birth and foster parents to care for a new child. Although some employers go beyond the mandate of the act and provide paid leave or allow paid sick leave to be used by employees with a new child, they often extend these benefits only to birth parents and not to foster parents or parents who adopt. My bill tracks the FMLA, correcting this inequity by providing that if an employer allows additional leave benefits for the birth of a child, the employer shall provide the same leave benefits to parents of a foster child or an adopted child. Thus, my bill does not require employers to provide leave policies beyond the requirement of the FMLA, but provides only for equal treatment for adoptive and foster parents, in keeping with the intent of the original legislation.

The basis for granting parental leave to both foster and adoptive parents overlap, but the circumstances of foster parents and adoptive parents are often different. Foster children are generally older children who have been removed from their own homes. Often they are children with specific needs. Sometimes they have been abused. Thus, a foster parent will normally have a greater challenge of adjustment than a new birth parent. A foster parent must acclimate to a child who already has set habits and personality traits. The foster child is sometimes intimidated by being thrust into her new surroundings. She may have come from dangerous or perhaps life threatening circumstances. In addition, foster care systems, especially those in large cities, are in great disrepair. A recent GAO report reported disgraceful circumstances for the care of many of these youngsters, a situation that is pervasive throughout the United States. The wreckage left behind by failed foster care systems is often reflected in the lives of foster children. They clearly need their parents in their new home as much, and probably more than the newborns who are the major recipients of paid leave.

Adopted children are generally not as old as foster care children and do not generally come to their new families from troubled circumstances. However, because most adoptive parents are caring for an infant, they find

themselves in a situation similar to the parents of newborns. There is no reason, therefore, to treat them differently than birth parents.

There are few foster or adoptive parents in any single workplace, guaranteeing that the effects on the employer would be minuscule in keeping with the policy of the FLMA. I urge my colleagues to support this bill to help ensure that foster parents and adoptive parents receive the same opportunity as birth parents to bond with a new child and to acclimate that child to her new family and surroundings.

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the Nation that the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ironwood, MI, is celebrating its centennial anniversary on June 22, 1996. It was 100 years ago that 20 Lutherans were drawn together by their common faith to form the Church of Ironwood, MI. Today, the congregation has nearly 600 dedicated members who are proudly celebrating the love and faith that has been shared within the congregation and the Ironwood community for the past century.

In 1896, Pastor Michael Kivi was asked to lead the small congregation. He graciously accepted the offer and began his new job for a salary of \$20 a month. Thirteen dedicated pastors have served the congregation since Pastor Kivi. Currently, Pastor Francis Strong leads the members in worship and fellowship.

The congregation has been planning the anniversary festivities since 1992. "The History of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church," a concise history of the parish, was printed last fall. An original stage play was written for the celebration entitled "Workers in the Vineyard." A centennial feast is being hosted on June 22 for members and friends of the congregation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all northern Michigan, and the entire Nation I would like to congratulate Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on 100 years of faith, love, and ministry.

FATHER THOMAS PATRICK JOSEPH DOYLE, S.J.

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Thomas J. Doyle, S.J., who will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the Society of Jesus on June 30, 1996.

Father Doyle, a product of the Philadelphia community, attended the Gesu Grammar School, Roman Catholic High School, and St. Joseph's Preparatory School before deciding to serve God and the community. Upon his graduation from St. Joseph's in 1933, Father Doyle entered the Society of Jesus. After performing his priestly studies in Toronto, Can-

ada, he was ordained on June 30, 1946, by James Cardinal McGuligan. Father Doyle returned to Philadelphia to celebrate his first mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church before traveling the world as an educator, mission director, editor, and preacher.

Since returning to Old St. Joseph's Church in 1967, Father Doyle has become a pillar of the Philadelphia Community. He has served as chaplain to the Federation of Irish Societies of the Delaware Valley, the Irish Society, Legion of Mary, Knights of Columbus, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Father Doyle was honored as the 1992 Hibernian of the year for his selfless dedication to the community and willingness to help those in need.

Father Thomas Patrick Joseph Doyle epitomizes the Jesuit ideals. Today, I join his friends in offering both thanks and congratulations for his years of dedicated service.

CUTTING SPENDING

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, June 19, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CUTTING SPENDING

Despite much of the political rhetoric in Washington, Congress and the President have made significant progress on reducing the federal budget deficit. For the first time since President Truman, the deficit has been reduced for years in a row. In fact, the projected 1996 deficit (\$140 billion) is less than half of the 1992 deficit (\$290 billion). Compared to the size of the economy, the U.S. deficit is now lower than that of any other major industrialized nation. However, much more must be done. The challenge facing Congress is to maintain this discipline and stay the course until the deficit is erased. In past months, Congress has taken a number of positive actions.

1996 SPENDING

With my strong support, Congress recently passed the last of the yearly appropriations bills which fund basic government operations. Overall, these bills cut spending \$23 billion blow 1995 levels—about 5 percent. I voted to eliminate more than 200 wasteful programs, including the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the modular helium reactor program, a congressional warehouse and parking lot, and many more.

LINE-ITEM VETO

With my support, Congress passed a line-item veto, and the President signed it into law. Under this provision, the President can object to any specific project or program and return it to Congress. Without a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate, the program would be eliminated. This is an important step in efforts to block wasteful spending and "pork-barrel" projects. I am disappointed that the congressional leadership delayed this provision until 1997 by defeating an effort to make it effective immediately. If this had passed, even more could be saved from spending bills this year.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

For the first time in history, the House last year approved a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The version that passed the House would require a 3/5 vote of